

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The Reason Why the White Metal Was Not Remonetized.

The new party, the populists, appear to be touching up both of the old parties and are blaming them, and particularly the democratic party, for our present financial troubles, when in fact this party has had nothing to do with the bringing of it onto the country. It is true they have not as yet remonetized silver which the republicans demonetized in 1893, but they made an honest attempt to do so at the last session of congress and failed, largely on account of the very bitter opposition of the republicans in both branches of congress, all of them voting solidly against every amendment offered by the democratic members to coin silver at a fixed parity between the two metals, except a few western members of that party.

Just how the republicans of this or any other portion of this great country can claim that the republican party is even friendly to any legislation by congress on the question of silver, of its coinage in any way, I cannot for the life of me see. It was that party that killed the white metal first in this country, and everything they have done since as a party has tended to destroy it as a money metal, and more, if you will but listen to them, they will tell you that the democratic party is responsible for its downfall.

We do not claim that all of the democrats advocate the idea that this country can at this time and alone remonetize silver in opposition to the wishes of the great financial centers of Europe, Great Britain and Germany. We of the west are foolhardy enough to make the attempt, but the public of the east will not listen to it. They think it would bring upon this nation nothing more or less than financial ruin. We think that if this country shall take the lead and at once remonetize silver and give it all of its former debt-paying power that these other great nations mentioned above will very soon, if not immediately, follow suit. We believe that they would be compelled to do so, or if they failed and continued to refuse, they would lose the trade of the outside world and we would capture it. Instead of injuring us we would thereby become the greatest nation on the globe, both commercially and financially. I ask how could England and Germany possibly compete with this country whilst it took *two silver dollars* to buy what it now takes *one gold dollar* to buy? So they would be compelled to restore silver to its original purchasing value or lose the trade of nine-tenths of the world, and this they could not afford to do. The trades people of Europe are, and have been for a

long time, suffering from the demonetization of silver, and they are now willing and anxious to see it remonetized. They object not to its weight or bulkiness. What they want is trade and an increase in commerce generally.

But it is the multi-millionaire who kicks against silver—the *kid gloved* gentlemen like the Rothschilds and many others who have managed to accumulate the bulk of the gold of the world—who have conspired against the people, and to double their own wealth they have taken away from the laboring and producing classes even to their means or support. They sit there in their richly furnished offices in London and other financial centers and fix prices upon every merchantable commodity, controlling even the value of a day's labor. That is to say, when they fix the value of wheat at 50 cents a bushel and cotton at 5 cents a pound, the value of labor to raise these and all other low priced articles must be necessarily low. So the world and the trade and commerce of the world today is under the mighty thumb of a few men who control the gold, and the laborer and producer is simply allowed sufficient for his crop to keep soul and body together, and to go on producing his grain and other commodities to be used by these millionaires—to be used by them to add to their present incalculable wealth. How long this state of affairs will be permitted to continue is the all absorbing question. The masses appear to have no remedy at hand that they can apply. We think that the remonetization of silver throughout the world will do it. It will act like oil on the troubled waters. The trade of the world would at once spring into life and activity, money would be plentiful and prosperity and contentedness would take the place of our present misery and want.

One of the great causes of the present stagnation in trade and business in this country is the lack of a sufficiency of money in circulation with which to carry on business. If a man was about to remove his residence to some other place he certainly would not pick out a place to go where there is no money in circulation. Nobody but a fool would be

guilty of so silly a thing, and yet it is well known that there is not sufficient money in circulation in this great country of ours, and the proper steps have not yet been taken to supply it. They tell us that the circulating medium in the United States amounts to about \$24 per capita, but when we reflect for a moment and find that a very few people own and control three-fourths of this, it leaves but little for the rest of us with which to carry on our daily business operations.

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